

REMARKS

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants will now address stated issues and grounds for rejection of the pending claims under the appropriate subheadings.

Rejection of Claims 2, 3 and 8-10 For Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 3 and 8-10 for Obviousness-Type Double Patenting over Claims 16, 22-25 and 27 of commonly-owned U.S. Patent No. 6,365,186. A Terminal Disclaimer in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) over commonly-owned U.S. Patent No. 6,365,186, is being filed concurrently. As such, the rejection is obviated.

Rejection of Claims 2, 3 and 8-10 Under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 3 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Keim *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 3,700,623) in view of Holmes-Farley *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,203,785).

Common Ownership

The Examiner is advised that U.S. Patent No. 6,203,785 and the present application were, at the time the presently claimed invention was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. As such U.S. Patent No. 6,203,785 is disqualified as 102(e)/103 prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (c)(1).

The Examiner's rejection of the instant claims relies on U.S. Patent No. 3,700,623 in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,203,785. As U.S. Patent No. 6,203,785 is disqualified as prior art, the rejection of record is moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

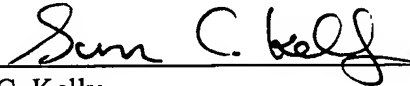
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a

telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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